

Palestine Perspectives

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NOVEMBER 29: DAY OF INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY WITH THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

Editorial Editorial Editorial

THE INVISIBLE PALESTINIANS

In its October 11, 1984 issue, the *Washington Jewish Week* published on its front page a story called "An Israeli Diary: A Journey to the Highlands." The article is an account by a Washington area Jewish couple of a recent visit they made to Israel, where they are considering to immigrate with their five children. Their visit included the occupied territories of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and the Golan Heights, which they call "the highlands of Eretz Israel."

In their account of their tour, they make a curious remark about "the sparsely populated areas of Judea, Samaria, Gaza, Golan and Galilee." There are two interesting facts which should be noted about this statement. First, the areas listed are the areas of main Arab concentration in the territory under Israeli rule. In fact, the Arabs are a majority in all of them, and an overwhelming majority in most of them. Second, they are not at all sparsely populated. Take "Judea and Samaria" [i.e., the West Bank] and Gaza. They are about 2,000 square miles of territory inhabited by about 1,300,000 people. Furthermore, they have one of the highest birth rates in the world. To appreciate how misleading the description of these areas as "sparsely populated" is, think of it this way: For the United States to be as "sparsely populated" as the West Bank and Gaza are today, it needs to have about 2 billion people!

The Zionist movement, since its inception, propagated the view that Palestine was an empty land. It needed to

convince public opinion that Zionist colonization does not dispossess and victimize an indigenous community. Otherwise, it would have been much more difficult for it to secure the support it needed for its scheme to convert Palestine into Israel.

The French Jewish intellectual Maxime Rodinson gave a more frightening explanation. He said that the leaders of the Zionist movement, being nineteenth century East Europeans, entertained the racist views of their time and place against native populations in the Third World. They considered Afro-Asia empty (at least in a cultural sense), and therefore suitable for European colonization.

It is perhaps understandable, though still reprehensible, that 19th century East European Jews would adhere to the unlamented concepts of the colonial age. But it is shocking that this late in the 20th century, sons and daughters of American democracy still echo similar concepts. It is inconceivable that the American couple who toured the West Bank and Gaza and plan to settle there did not notice the Palestinians there. After all, for every Jewish settler in the West Bank and Gaza there are a hundred Palestinian Arabs. Has Zionism been so totally successful in making the Palestinians invisible to Jews?

In the last issue of *Palestine Perspectives*, we wrote an editorial titled "Zionism is a Jewish Problem," in which we said that Zionism not only dispossessed the Palestinians but also burdened the Jews with an ethical problem. It has made millions of Jews around the world its active partners in the dispossession of the Palestinian people and, even worse, it dulled their sense of values to the degree that they have become insensitive to that fact. It is our right to remind them of it, but it is their duty to themselves and their children to do something about it. Some have. Many have not yet recognized the need. □

M. Hallaj

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IN THIS ISSUE

FORUM

Arabs Understand Only One Language *Leah Inbal*
The Occupied Territories *Ibrahim Dakkak*

PLO NEWS

Research Center Activated
Palestinians in Syria

LIFE UNDER OCCUPATION

Lebanese Resistance
My Country, My Prison
Terrorists Shell Bus

WASHINGTON WATCH

U.S. Supports *Apartheid*
U.S.-Israel Industrial-Military Complex
Pro-Israel PACs

WORLD VIEW

Francoise Died for Palestine
No Debate in Canada

ARABS UNDERSTAND ONLY ONE LANGUAGE

Leah Inbal

[After the Israeli elections of 23 July 1984, the writer of this article went to the Israeli town of Kiryat Gat (population 13,000), whose residents heavily supported the fanatical right by voting for Rabbi Meir Kahane. The author said she went "to see how the town lives with that kind of blemish." The article based on this visit was published in *Koteret Rashit* of 8 August 1984 and translated and excerpted in the September edition of "Israel Press Briefs," published by the Tel Aviv International Center for Peace in the Middle East]:

At Itzik's Restaurant young men were sitting around drinking coke and beer. They smiled at us out of their amiable torpor and asked what had brought us to Kiryat Gat. They came over and joined us. Some were unemployed, some were doing compulsory military service, some had not voted at all, some had voted for Kach [Kahane's list]. All of them hated Arabs. It didn't matter which Arabs. All Arabs. In the territories. In the Triangle. Workers at Polgat [a local textile mill]. Shopkeepers in East Jerusalem. Arabs in Jordan. The whole lot of them ought to be exterminated.

Yami Cohen, a twenty-year-old soldier, says: "We should kick them out of the country. It's in our own interest. It's a Jewish State, isn't it? So why should we have Arabs here? So they can take away our jobs? If Pollak [owner of Polgat] knows he can get some little Arabush from Gaza at half the price, won't he prefer him? For the wages they accept I wouldn't bother to get up in the morning. Why do I hate Arabs? Because I was brought up to hate them. Where? In school. I studied at a religious high school—I finished Grade 10. They hate Arabs there, Jews will always hate Arabs. It's in their blood."

"I got my views," he goes on, "from a meeting with Raful [former chief-of-staff Rafael Eitan] in Kiryat Gat. He said the Arabs here wouldn't be walking around free getting the rights they have now. He convinced me. In the elections I worked for Tehiya [Eitan was number two on the Tehiya list]. I have seven brothers and they all worked for Tehiya. But I voted even more way-out. Why? Because Tehiya is a party of 'intelligent' people. Quiet types, you know—they talk nice, they're for the Whole Land of Israel and for laws to restrict the Arabs. But that's not enough for me. I say they should be kicked out."(...)

By evening we were surrounded by a crowd. Dozens of people—passersby, people returning from the marketplace with their shopping baskets, people coming out of the cinema. The gathering became a kind of public meeting. Everyone spoke at once, shouting to make themselves heard above their neighbors. They brandished fists, exploded in fury, their faces contorted with hatred, rage. It all came bursting out like steam. No more restraints. Yes! I'm for Kahane. And him!—and him, and him, too! Everyone here is Kahane. Even if we're dyed-in-the-wool Likudniks. What's wrong with that? He's got balls. He says what half the people think. He got up and said it all out loud. Now everyone can get it off their chest. (...)

A man in his sixties, tall and thin, wearing a long



PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

"When Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres was presenting Israel's terrible economic plight to Secretary of State George Shultz in a preliminary meeting this week, he was comforted with words to the effect that he would 'find his best friend' in the White House. Sure enough, the next day Peres emerged smiling from his session with President Reagan saying he had "found... a true friend of Israel."

It figured. Peres stands precariously at the head of coalition forces hanging together for fear of hanging separately if urgent economic problems are not addressed. So even more than is usually the case, Peres needed to convey back home his command of American respect and support. For his part, Ronald Reagan naturally cherished the photo opportunity to re-pledge his allegiance to Israel and its American constituency.

So what else is new in the U.S.-Israeli relationship? Israel's self-professed best friends continue to promise whatever it takes to ensure Israel's economic and military strength. The Reagan administration continues to defend past Israeli policies and its own hand on their behalf; it's business as usual."

Philip Geyelin
Washington Post
12 October 1982

woollen cloak, manages to outshout the rest. "For thirty-eight years we lived in Morocco under the Arabs," he says. "Let them live under us now. Where is such a thing heard of as an Arab throwing a stone at an Israeli soldier and he can't open fire? And when they catch terrorists that hijacked a bus they make them out to be poor guys and set up a commission of inquiry! And the underground—our wise guardians of religion have to sit in jail for twenty years?! Let them out now! Let us be minister of the interior and police. Because there's only one language the Arabs understand." (...) □



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THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Interview with Ibrahim Dakkak

[The following are excerpts from a lengthy interview with Ibrahim Dakkak, an Arab civil engineer from Jerusalem and President of the Engineers Union in the occupied West Bank. The interview was conducted in Washington by Khalil Jahshan, Assistant Editor of *Palestine Perspectives*, during Mr. Dakkak's recent tour of the United States]:

Q: *What in your view is the most serious problem now faced by the Palestinians under Israeli occupation?*

A: Israel's main objective is to make life for the Palestinians in the occupied territories unbearable to encourage their emigration out of the country. Israel wants to evict us from our land, but for the sake of world public opinion it wants the eviction to appear to be a voluntary migration.

When I speak of a mass Palestinian exodus as an Israeli goal, I am not referring to marginal Israeli elements but to the Israeli establishment. In 1980, it was revealed by Aharon Yariv, head of the Tel Aviv University Center for Strategic Studies, that an Israeli plan exists to evict 700,000 to 800,000 Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

Q: *Is this plan being implemented?*

A: Yes. Through Jewish terrorist activities against the inhabitants of the occupied territories, through the confiscation of land and resources and the building of Jewish settlements, and through increasing linkages between the occupied territories and Israel, life in the West Bank and Gaza is being made increasingly difficult for Palestinians.

Q: *What is the mood in the occupied territories regarding the new Israeli government?*

A: I don't think anybody is pinning great hopes on the new Israeli government. There is a general feeling of disappointment in the ability of any Israeli government to face the Palestinian question. The Israelis are only buying time.

The biggest challenge we, the Palestinians under occupation, face is how to remain on our land and live our lives while continuing the struggle for our rights.

Q: *Would you comment on the recent upsurge in Jewish racism, represented by the election of Rabbi Meir Kahane to the Israeli Knesset? And how does it impinge on the life of the Palestinians under occupation?*

A: This phenomenon creates a dangerous situation. It threatens the people and our holy places. It would be a mistake to think of it as something which unexpectedly appeared in Israeli society. I think that racism was always there, and that the United Nations was correct in equating Zionism with racism and racial discrimination.

Q: *Has the arrest of some settler terrorists reduced the level of Israeli terrorist activity in the occupied territories?*

A: We do not expect terrorism to stop, because it has support from religious, political and economic circles in Israel. They justify such acts. You must have heard of statements made by Yuval Ne'eman [former Science Minister], and of the views of Yitzhak Shamir [former Prime Minister and present Foreign Minister] regarding the intention to pardon the settlers who have been indicted for terrorist acts. Some Israeli circles consider the terrorists to be heroes. This indicates the corruption of Israeli society.

Q: *Indications are that President Reagan will be returned to office for another term. He still talks about his initiative of September 1982. How is the Reagan initiative perceived in the occupied territories?*

A: The Palestinian response to the Reagan plan has been clearly articulated by the people of the occupied territories. Let us not forget that the Israelis too rejected it. The Americans are trying to put the blame on the Palestinians for rejecting the plan, but I doubt if they are capable of getting the Israelis to declare a clear position on the future of the occupied territories.

Q: *You have not visited the United States in recent years. Have the Israelis prevented you from leaving Jerusalem?*

A: Yes, since 1980, the Israelis restricted my freedom of movement in four different ways: They prevented me from traveling in the West Bank, they forbade my entry into the Gaza Strip, they prohibited me from leaving Jerusalem, and they ordered me to remain at home during the night. These restrictions on my movement remained for several years. The possibility always exists that they would be renewed in the future.

Q: *Are these widespread practices in the occupied territories?*

A: For a while, we thought there was a tendency to lift some of these restrictions against West Bank and Gaza personalities. But recently George Hazboun, a leading trade unionist, was put under town arrest in Bethlehem for six months, which can be extended. Dr. Azmi Shuaibi, a member of el-Bireh municipal council, had his town arrest renewed, although he needs to travel to Jerusalem for medical treatment. The Israelis restrict the freedom of Palestinian nationalists in order to give the world a false impression that the Palestinians acquiesce to their occupation and their policies.

Q: *This is not new. We have already seen the rise and fall of the Village Leagues. Who are the new collaborators that the Israelis are trying to cultivate as an alternative leadership to the PLO?*

A: There is no real collaboration with the Israelis. What they hope to achieve is to tame the Palestinians and to paralyze their national institutions. They also want to encourage the Jordanian loyalists in order to weaken the independent Palestinian national movement. They are looking for people willing to compromise with the occupation. At the same time, the Israelis continue to suppress and harass nationalistic elements and institutions such as the National Guidance Committee which was outlawed. But there is no viable alternative to the nationalist elements and to their commitment to Palestinian independence. □

DFLP CALLS FOR PNC MEETING

Saleh Ra'fat, member of the Political Bureau of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said the DFLP supports the urgent convening of the Palestine National Council (PNC) on the basis of the Aden-Algiers Agreement reached between Fateh and the Democratic Alliance last July. In a statement issued on 21 October, Ra'fat said the DFLP will continue to push for a PNC meeting at the earliest possible date to end the fragmentation of the PLO.

Following is his statement as it was published on 22 October by Wafa, the Palestinian News Agency:

The DFLP is currently holding talks with all the Palestinian factions and forces, including Fateh Central Committee as well as parties in the Democratic Alliance, for consultations on the date for convening the PNC, and this before the end of the current year, in order to hasten the activation of PLO institutions and to put an end to their present state of paralysis.

The DFLP reaffirms that the Algerian leadership has expressed during the meeting held on the 19th of July and in the presence of both presidents Ali Nasser Mohammed [Yemen] and Al Shadly Ben Jedid [Algeria] and the leadership of the Democratic Alliance and Fateh Central Committee, its complete willingness to host the PNC session after a limited period which will not exceed two months in order to continue the efforts and endeavors to convince the National Alliance to participate in the 17th session of the PNC.

The present talk about a so-called "quorum" problem has no validity and this ever since the signing of the Aden-Algiers Agreement between the Democratic Alliance and Fateh Central Committee, considering that all the popular organizations and Palestinian personalities declared their support and approval of this agreement and their readiness to participate in the PNC, thus attaining the quorum.

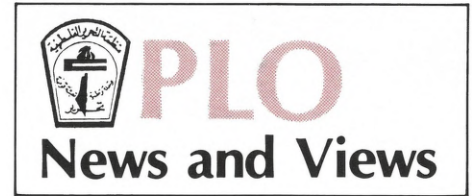
The DFLP reaffirms that it will continue its endeavors for the convening of the PNC at the earliest possible time in order to put an end to the paralysis and fragmentation within the PLO, and rejects the idea that any party has the right to veto Palestinian national unity. □

PALESTINIAN FILMS

The Palestine Red Crescent Society, the health institution of the PLO, participated in the Carthage International Film Festival in October, by showing three Palestinian documentaries.

One of the films, "Born out of Death," portrays a true story of the birth of a Palestinian baby girl during the 1981 Israeli air raid on Beirut. The baby's mother was killed in the raid, but the baby was born alive out of the mother's wounds as if by a cesarean section. She is probably the only baby ever to be delivered alive by a bomb. The girl was found by Palestine Red Crescent workers, who called her "Falastin," the Arabic word for Palestine.

The PRCS also showed a film called "Why?" which is a documentary on the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon, and a third film titled "War Laboratory" which documents Israel's use of internationally-banned weapons in the 1982 war. □



PLO RESEARCH CENTER REACTIVATED

As a part of the continuing effort to reorganize and reactivate Palestinian institutions after the Israeli assault on Lebanon and the occupation of Beirut in September 1982, the PLO Research Center has resumed one of its major activities: the publication of the Arabic-language monthly journal, *Palestinian Affairs* (*Shu'un Falastiniya*). The journal is being temporarily published in Cyprus, until negotiations with some Arab states are concluded to relocate the Center.

In its first issue after its suspension last year, the journal relates the history of the Center, which became one of the major targets of the Israeli attack on Palestinian institutions in Lebanon. When the Israeli forces, in violation of the U.S.-mediated agreement pertaining to the evacuation of PLO fighters from Beirut occupied the city, they robbed the Research Center of its library and equipment. The library was finally released as a part of the Israeli-PLO prisoner exchange agreement at the end of 1983.

The Israeli assault on the Center was followed by repeated harassment by Israel's Lebanese instruments, which included the bombing of the Center in February 1983. The bombing destroyed the Center and caused the death of eight of its researchers and employees, including the wife of the director. It became impossible for the Center to function and it had to be closed down. □

PALESTINIANS IN SYRIA DEMAND PNC MEETING

Thirty thousand Palestinians residing in Syria signed a petition demanding the speedy convention of the Palestine National Council. The petition said that the PNC, being the supreme legislative authority of the PLO, must be convened to help PLO institutions overcome the confusion and paralysis which now afflicts them. The following is the text of the petition:

"We the Palestinians residing in the camps and other concentrations of the Palestinian diaspora in Syria, appeal to the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization and all responsible leaders of the independent Palestinian organizations to convene without delay the Palestine National Council on the basis of the Aden-Algiers Agreement which our people inside and outside the occupied homeland had supported.

The convening of the PNC has become an urgent necessity, as the highest PLO legislative organ, to strengthen the unity of the PLO and to help its institutions overcome the confusion and paralysis they face.

Convening the PNC is required by the will of our Palestinian people to safeguard the PLO and to enhance its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people." □

ISRAELI TERRORISM Linked to Establishment

Israeli terrorists, previously portrayed as mavericks working alone as an "underground," are revealing their connections with the Israeli establishment. One of these groups has recently admitted to an Israeli journalist its links with the National Religious Party (NRP), which has been a partner in every coalition which governed Israel since its establishment in 1948.

The report, published in *Davar* (14 October 1984), said that the "headquarters for the Jewish underground detainees has been working from the National Religious Party branches in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv." The *Davar* correspondent said that he has been told by members of the terrorist group that they had previously operated from Gush Emunim headquarters, "but they decided to return to their real home, the NRP." The leader of the group, Yehuda Hazani, renewed his ties with the NRP leadership.

The *Davar* correspondent said that the senior leadership of the NRP decided to support the "underground" organization to entice Gush Emunim members back to their party.

The most disturbing aspect of this development, is that the NRP is not only a member of the Israeli government and has representation on the cabinet as well as in the Knesset, but that it is the political party which is always given the Ministry of the Interior and has jurisdiction over the police. This explains the facts, revealed earlier by the Karp Commission Report, that the Israeli police ignore Arab complaints of acts of violence committed against them by Jewish terrorists.

(continued on page 9)

ANALYSIS... FROM REFUGEE CAMP TO CONCENTRATION CAMP

The Dheisheh is a camp for Palestinian refugees in the southern region of the occupied West Bank. It is being gradually converted to a concentration camp.

Dheisheh has always been a primary target of Israeli repression [see *Palestine Perspectives*, January 1984]. Recently, however, events took a particularly ominous direction. On October 4, 1984, the occupation authorities sealed eight more of the camp's entrances. Ten other entrances were sealed during the past three years. Only two of the camp's twenty original entrances now remain open. It has come to be a large prison, and its residents have become more like inmates.

Furthermore, and with greater potentiality for tragedy, the Israeli government has given what amounts to a "contract" on the camp and its residents to fanatical Jewish settlers from the Hebron area. Israel Radio reported on October 9 that Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's Defense Minister, has authorized settler vigilantes to organize armed patrols in front of the camp, allegedly to prevent camp children from throwing stones at passing Israeli vehicles.

All societies have a group of people who try to live outside the law. Normal practice is not to incarcerate the majority to shelter the criminal minority, but the other way around. Israel does not seem to subscribe to this human norm. It incarcerates the victims of Israeli settlement policy to ensure the freedom and safety of the settlers.

It is a known fact, now admitted by Israel, that settler vigilantes are the broader framework from which Jewish anti-Arab terrorists operate in the West Bank. Authorizing them to patrol the camp is an ominous reminder of the events which led to the mass massacre of refugees in the camps of Sabra and Shatila in Beirut in September 1982.

If the vigilantes commit a massacre in Dheisheh, Israel's "vibrant democracy" will see to it that a commission of inquiry gets established and another report demonstrating the viability of Israel's "moral fiber" will be issued. In fact, someone will be burdened with "indirect responsibility" for the massacre.

Israel, we are often told, is a great believer in "preventive action." To imprison the residents of the Dheisheh refugee camp and to authorize vigilantism, instead of preventing a stone from being thrown, are more likely to cause innocent lives to be lost.

The vigilantes are now agents of the Israeli government, just as the militias who committed the Sabra and Shatila massacres were agents of the Israeli forces. If they commit a massacre in Dheisheh camp, Israel will be guilty of much more than "indirect responsibility." □



HUNGER STRIKE

[In September, Palestinian political prisoners in the newly-opened Jnaid prison west of Nablus staged a hunger strike to protest the cruel conditions imposed on them by their Israeli captors. The Palestine Information Office in Washington issued the following news release on 2 October on the hunger strike, which has been since called off after some concessions have been made to the prisoners. Editor:]

PALESTINIAN POLITICAL PRISONERS ON HUNGER STRIKE

The lives of many Palestinian political prisoners in Israeli detention centers are threatened due to a hunger strike which began on September 22 of this year. The strike was called to protest cruel treatment and inhuman conditions imposed on the Palestinian prisoners by their Israeli captors. In a message smuggled out of Jnaid prison west of Nablus in the occupied West Bank, addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the detainees appealed for help on behalf of more than 50 prisoners suffering from severe physical and mental illness, who are denied medical care by the Israeli authorities. The message listed the names of 29 of these victims and the illnesses from which they suffer. Some of these injuries were caused by the failure of the Israeli authorities to treat wounded Palestinian combatants from whose bodies bullets and shrapnel were not removed after their capture. Others were caused by malnutrition, overcrowdedness, torture, and the lack of hygienic facilities and supplies.

The prisoners also complain of the frequent use of collective punishment, which often takes the form of spraying harmful gas into crowded and closed cells, an act which threatens the health and lives of the prisoners. They are also protesting the curtailment of visiting hours and exercise periods, and denying them access to all books, magazines and newspapers published in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

In their message to the U.N. Secretary-General, the Palestinian prisoners said that Israeli prisoners captured by the P.L.O. were given all the rights of prisoners of war stipulated by the Geneva Conventions, were permitted unlimited contact with representatives of the International Red Cross Committee, were given access to Hebrew publications, and were permitted to correspond with their families. They demanded equal treatment for Palestinian prisoners.

The prisoners identified the following specific grievances as the causes of their hunger strike:

1. Intolerable and harmful overcrowdedness.
2. The installation of harmful asbestos on cell windows.
3. The use of gas against prisoners as an instrument of control and as a form of collective punishment.
4. Lack of necessary medical care and sanitary conditions.
5. Inadequate diet, qualitatively and quantitatively.
6. The shortage of clean water for drinking and bathing.
7. The reduction of visiting hours and the offensive and oppressive treatment of visiting families and friends. The curtailment of exercise privileges.
8. The theft of personal belongings during transfer between prisons.

To indicate the persistence of the inhuman treatment of Palestinian political prisoners since the Israeli occupation of the rest of Palestine in 1967, the Jnaid prisoners reminded the U.N. Secretary-General that during the past 17 years, Palestinian political prisoners were compelled to spend a total of 600 days in frequent hunger strikes in the hope of calling attention to the dangerous and inhuman conditions they are forced to endure. Between 1970 and 1980 three prisoners died, as a result, in Nafha and Ashkelon prisons. More than fifty died as a result of unhealthy conditions, and many others through torture during interrogation.

In addition to the message sent by the prisoners to the Secretary-General of the U.N., the Palestin-

ian prisoners sent appeals to His Holiness Pope John Paul II, to Amnesty International, to the International Committee of the Red Cross, to the Secretary-General of the Arab League, and to the Palestine National Council.

In solidarity with the prisoners, their families and other people from the occupied territories have been holding a vigil at the headquarters of the Red Cross in Jerusalem.

The hunger strike began in Jnaid prison in Nablus, where there are about a thousand political prisoners, and spread to the Ramleh women's detention center.

The Palestine Information Office in Washington conveys the message and the appeal of helpless captives, and appeals to public opinion in the United States on behalf of the many victims of a most cruel ordeal. □

MORE BOOKS BANNED

The list of books banned from the West Bank and Gaza by the Israeli occupation army lengthened by 18 more titles. They include a variety of subjects, as indicated by the following titles of recently-banned reading:

- *Panorama of the Modern Arab Novel*
- *Al-Mutanabbi and Children*
- *Backwardness of the Arabs and the Third World*
- *Lectures in Modern Arabic Literature, Part II*
- *Hearts Painted Blue*
- *Development of the Palestinian Cause*
- *Plans for Solving the Palestinian Problem Between 1947-1983*

The list of banned books had about 3,000 titles three years ago. Later it was revised and brought down to more than a thousand. New books are frequently added to it. Persons who possess banned books are imprisoned, and bookstores which carry them are closed. It is a peculiar feature of Israel's unique democracy. □

ISRAEL IN LEBANON

LEBANESE RESISTANCE

Lebanese resistance to the Israeli occupation is a new phenomenon in the Arab-Israeli conflict. For the first time, Israel starts a fight which it cannot finish.

It all started with the fierce resistance of the Palestinian forces in Beirut which brought the Israeli advance to a halt and demonstrated the soundness of the concept of popular resistance to a militarily superior army. The Israeli war machine exposed its Achilles heel when faced with a people in revolt. It had to withdraw once to minimize its casualties, and it is now considering a second withdrawal. And Israel has begun to understand the futility of its initial ambition to impose a puppet regime on Lebanon and to secure the country within its sphere of influence.

To minimize the significance of the resistance to its occupation, Israel often portrays it as an aspect of sectarian conflict in Lebanon and claims that its forces occasionally get in the way. And it pictures it as the result of external intervention in Lebanon. Israel wants to conceal the fact that it is facing an effective liberation struggle. In its drive to sell the United States on the "strategic value" of Israel in the Middle East, Israel wants to hide the serious limitations on its power exposed by the resistance it is facing in Lebanon.

Occupied Lebanon has become Israel's Vietnam. Its forces face an average of one hundred military attacks a month; and there is no end in sight. The reason is simple. Israel knew Lebanon through a minority of collaborators, and made the mistake of generalizing a deviant case.

In one of its recent issues, the Arabic-language weekly, *Al-Yom Assabe*h (22 October 1984), published interviews with activists in the Lebanese resistance. The following are excerpts from these interviews which help shed light on the nature and objectives of the resistance:

Q: *Who are you? Who are the Lebanese Resistance?*

A: We are the people of south Lebanon. Many of our operations are instinctive and spontaneous popular reactions to the occupation. Often they involve no command decisions or prior planning. Let me give you an example. A Lebanese truck driver was harassed on the road by an Israeli military jeep. The truck driver dropped a grenade in the jeep and continued on his way. He was not a member of an organized group with commanders but an ordinary Lebanese who got fed up with the Israeli soldiers.

Q: *What do you want?*

A: We want the Israelis out of Lebanon. We want our people to know that the Israelis are not our friends, and they did not come into Lebanon to secure "peace for Galilee." They want to stay in our land, dominate our economic life, and to exacerbate the crisis in our country to control it, all of it and not just the south.

Q: *Are you a coalition of parties?*

A: About 90 percent of us have no organizational ties or party affiliations. And we have all types of people: we have Muslims and Christians, we have believers and atheists. We want to liberate our country, and that is our common ideology.

Q: *Have you overcome the sectarian factor? Do you have Christians from the south?*

A: We have many Christians who help us. Because they move more freely, they have been particularly helpful in securing valuable maps and in moving weapons from place to place.

Q: *Do Palestinians participate in the resistance?*

A: The Palestinians are in the south, and because they are here also under occupation, they also resist. But our movement is basically Lebanese.

Q: *The Israeli soldier is portrayed abroad as a "superman." What is your view of him?*

A: We have seen them panic, even cry and throw down their weapons. We have seen them hide and cry out on loud speakers: don't fire, we're withdrawing. They hide

behind Lebanese civilians in crowded places. They panic and fire aimlessly.

Q: *How do you relate armed struggle to general popular passive resistance?*

A: They complement each other. Passive resistance represents steadfastness of our people, and armed struggle represents active challenge to the occupation.

Q: *Do you think your resistance will compel the Israelis to withdraw?*

A: We don't have any doubts about that. □

MASSACRE IN SUHMUR

Another massacre has been committed against civilians in the Israeli-occupied south of Lebanon. Israeli occupation forces and their Lebanese instruments in the south cornered the inhabitants of the village of Suhmur and mowed them down. Thirteen people were killed and a large number were wounded before it was over.

News from Beirut described the attack. On Thursday, 20 September, the Israeli occupation forces gathered a large number of Suhmur residents in the village square, and unleashed five members of the Lahad [formerly Saad Haddad] militia, who began shooting down the detainees. The Israelis surrounded the area and prevented the victims from escaping from the scene of the massacre.

Eye witnesses told the Lebanese press that the surviving villagers were prevented from giving medical assistance to the wounded. They also said that families of the victims were prevented from administering religious rites to the dead, who were buried in a common grave.

Meir Vilner, Rakah Party representative in the Knesset, said the Suhmur massacre resembles the massacre of Sabra and Shatila camps, and demanded a commission of inquiry to determine responsibility for the massacre, and he demanded an end to the Israeli military occupation of Lebanon. □

REPRESSION AND RESISTANCE

MY COUNTRY, MY PRISON

"Southern Lebanon has become a huge prison."

Francoise Chipaux
Le Monde (Paris)
20 September 1984

[The following are two testimonies of Lebanese political prisoners, taken from a report by the Paris-based International Center for Information on Palestinian and Lebanese Prisoners, Deportees and Missing Persons]:

#1: MOTHER OF THREE

At 7:30 a.m. about 20 Israeli soldiers burst into the room (there were 40 more outside). I was not allowed to make arrangements for my children who were at school. I was handcuffed and blindfolded and put in an army truck. As I discovered later, the truck came to a halt in front of the Military Intelligence Center of Tyre where I was left outside, still handcuffed and blindfolded, till 5 p.m.

I was then thrown into a cell and was interrogated for two days by Arabic-speaking Israelis and a Lebanese from Lahad's army. I was told: "We don't want you in south Lebanon." From my cell I could hear cries of pain and see horded detainees. I could see on my way to the WC lots of people lying almost unclothed on the damp floor. After two days I was taken to Saida in a jeep with many others. From Saida I was taken to the Regie (former tobacco storage facility) in Nabitiyeh where I was held for 34 days. Despite starting a hunger strike I was interrogated thrice daily, threatened with physical violence and was not allowed to remain veiled. When not being interrogated I was held in a tiny, dark basement cell without mattress or blankets. Psychological pressure was used, i.e., being forced to watch other detainees being ill-treated. My 80-year-old father was made to be present at an interrogation; my children had only one visit of less than half-an-hour.

On the 35th day I was again handcuffed and blindfolded and

taken on a long trip changing jeeps often to the women's prison of Ramleh in Israel. I could scarcely walk and was taken to a "transit" cell (different from ordinary ones) where I stayed two-and-a-half months.

Food and health conditions were bad; Palestinian and Lebanese were, as far as possible, kept separate. A detainee being released told outsiders where I was so that I got a Red Cross visit after 12 days but no mail was allowed.

I was never put on trial, nor told what my status was. One evening, after two-and-a-half months, I was taken without warning out of the prison to Tyre. They would not take me home but dumped me at 1 a.m. on the main square where I was found 2 hours later by a truck driver.

#2: ARRESTED TWICE

He was arrested on the 23rd of April, and held for 60 days, then released and rearrested in June and held for another 44 days. When arrested, his home was ransacked and he was taken to the warehouse in the boot of his car. After 48 hours standing up his interrogation began. He was hit, made to strip while a soldier also stripped and threatened to rape him.

Afterwards he was hooded and put in an air conditioned room with about 70 others. Every time the soldiers passed they were hit and they had two minutes for eating, two minutes for the lavatories so that most people had no time to use them.

There was an interrogation every day of about half-an-hour to an hour. Finally he was released and rearrested.

After the second arrest he was much tortured, his tongue was pierced with needles.

He goes on to explain the division of responsibility between the Lahad groups who used electricity in their tortures and the Israelis. Some of those arrested by the Phalange were taken on eventually to Ansar or to Israel.

After his second arrest X was taken to the warehouse and his feet

and hands were tied so that they became so swollen he had to crawl to the lavatories. Physical tortures alternated with threat of rape towards their wife and sisters. At one stage they brought women to the prison to show the prisoners what they could do.

They did not see daylight for 21 days but as well as the hood there was a band over their eyes. They could only sit on the ground every 3 or 4 days. During the Ramadan those who wanted to fast were given a hot pepper instead of the tomato which was the normal meal. They had to shout for an hour to get water. Then X ends by giving a list of people arrested and tortured with him including one person who died under torture in front of his brother and father. □

ISRAEL COVETS LEBANESE WATER

Israel's water commissioner, Zamaach-Ishai, admitted the existence of Israeli plans to steal Lebanese water resources. In an interview on Israel Radio, the Israeli official admitted that during the 1970's Israel prepared plans to draw water from the Lebanese Wazzani River into Israel and to construct a hydroelectric plant on the site. He also said that Israel "looked into" the diversion of waters of the Litani River, 15 miles deep into Lebanese territory.

Lebanese officials have been accusing Israel of tampering with the Wazzani springs in the occupied south of Lebanon. A U.N. team which was sent recently to check the area found no construction in the area, but Israel Radio reported that "steel pylons placed along 1,200 yards of territory were uprooted before the U.N. team arrived."

Control of Lebanese water resources has always been considered by the Zionist movement as a requirement for its scheme of a viable Jewish state in Palestine. The current Israeli occupation of Lebanon gave Israel its first practical opportunity to lay hands on Lebanese water. □



Life Under Occupation

JEWISH TERRORISTS SHELL BETHLEHEM BUS *One Killed and Ten Wounded*

Jewish terrorists fired an anti-tank rocket on a crowded civilian bus on its way to Bethlehem from Jerusalem. The explosion killed Jamal Mattour, 20-year-old Palestinian from Bethlehem, and wounded 10 other passengers.

News from the occupied West Bank said that the bus was shelled as it slowly climbed a heavily-wooded hill on its regular route to Bethlehem, at 3:30 p.m. on 28 October. The rocket exploded as it hit the roof of the bus above its side door. Initial police investigation indicated that the weapon used was a U.S.-made hand-held anti-tank rocket. The rocket launcher used in the attack was found in the woods by the side of the Jerusalem-Bethlehem highway.

Police also found next to the rocket launcher a note written in Hebrew warning that similar attacks would continue until the Israeli government imposes the death penalty on "Arab terrorists." The note also said that the attack on the Arab bus was to avenge the recent killing of two Israelis near Bethlehem.

Jewish terrorism in the occupied West Bank and Gaza has become a serious problem in the occupied territories during the past few years. A British parliamentary delegation which visited the area recently said, in a press conference in London on 20 October, that they were shocked by what they saw, and that Israeli rule is intended to intimidate the Palestinian residents to force them to leave the country. □

THE STONE WAR

Where there is oppression there is resistance, even if it is only with stones, the only weapon available to Palestinian children in the occupied territories. Early last June, the Israeli Military Government decreed a prison sentence of 20 years for throwing stones at Israeli vehicles in the occupied territories (see *Palestine Perspectives*, June/July 1984). It does not seem to work.

The Jerusalem Radio Hebrew Service reported on 15 October that according to Amnon Shahaq, the commander of the Central Region, 800 residents from the occupied territories have recently been found "guilty of throwing stones." The Israelis fail to understand that when they imprison a whole community, the threat of a prison sentence fails to intimidate. □

ISRAEL: UNEQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Anti-Semitism is becoming more common and more open in Israel. The Arabic-language daily *al Ittihad* of 14 October translated from *Yedi'ot Aharanot* of 5 October three advertisements by Israeli employers who are excluding "non Jews" from available employment opportunities. Two of the announcements stipulate military service for eligibility, which excludes Arabs, and the third announcement is explicitly anti-Arab. The announcement said: "Workers! You are turning our factories over to the Arabs. You are becoming beggars who prefer handouts from the government and the Histadrut [Jewish Trade Federation]. Ta'mas Industries offers you work and wages. With your support we continue production. Call 03-801121/3."

Imagine an employer in the United States, or anywhere else, advertising job openings in a large daily saying "the Jews are taking over our factories." What would the Anti-Defamation League do? □

WHY DON'T THEY EAT CAKE?

The fishing industry is one of the main economic activities in the Gaza Strip. It is estimated that 5 thousand fishermen and 10 thousand other workers involved in making and mending fishing nets, boats and other supplies and services live off the sea. This important economic activity is now threatened by the Israeli occupation.

Palestinian fishermen have always been harassed by the Israelis, but additional restrictions are making it increasingly harder for them to survive. High taxes and fees (totaling 45 percent of income), and restrictions against selling their catch on the Israeli market are among the problems they face. More seriously, Israel has steadily narrowed the area in which they are permitted to fish. They are now limited to an area of 240 square kilometers consisting of a strip of Mediterranean coast along the Gaza Strip, 24 kilometers long and 10 kilometers wide. They are kept out of richer grounds deeper at sea, while no such restrictions are imposed on Israeli fishermen.

Palestinian fishermen, who are sometimes compelled to violate these restrictions to survive, are fired at by Israeli coast guard patrols, they are made to pay stiff penalties, and their boats and licenses are confiscated for long periods of time. □

TERRORISM

(continued from page 5)

There are indications that support for the terrorists permeates the whole Israeli establishment, and is not confined to small or rightist parties. Jerusalem Radio, broadcasting in English on 15 October, said that Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, a Labor Party minister and a former Prime Minister, turned down a petition by the Israeli Peace Now Movement to cancel a provocative demonstration in the Arab city of Hebron, planned by settlers in the area in support of the Jewish terrorists. □

COMMENTARY... HOW THE U.S. SUPPORTS APARTHEID

The American public has been so well conditioned to thinking of U.S. support for Israel as an "ethical commitment," as the candidates for public office have been asserting before Jewish audiences, that most people never stop to think of what it is that they are really subsidizing with their hard-earned tax money. The U.S. every Christmas gives every Israeli man, woman and child a thousand dollars. The money does not have to be repaid, it is continually increasing, and it is not conditioned on any specific behavior. And it does not include sales of Israeli government bonds to U.S. citizens or tax-deductible contributions collected in the U.S. by Zionist organizations and shipped to Israel.

How does Israel use this money? Just to focus on one shocking fact, Israel uses it to finance a most pernicious system of *apartheid*, which is hidden from most people in the U.S. behind all the gibberish about security and about Israel being a vibrant democracy and similar nonsense. Leaving aside Israel's ideological *motif*, which defines it as a "state for the Jews" and thus establishes a religious test for even the most basic of human rights, the right to live in the country as it was established in the Law of Return, Israel has erected an *apartheid* society in three basic ways:

1. Land ownership is reserved to Jews. Most of Israel's territory is owned by Zionist organizations as "the eternal property of the Jewish people." Even land confiscated from the Palestinians is used for the exclusive settlement and enjoyment of Jews.

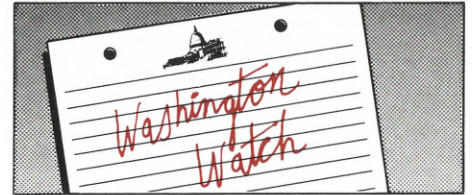
2. Many social services are rendered only to Jews by giving jurisdiction over them to international Jewish organizations such as Hadassah, the Jewish National Fund, the United Jewish Appeal, and the Jewish Agency.

3. The Israeli government-supported and administered services are often denied to the "non-Jewish" citizens of Israel by tying them to service in the Israeli armed forces.

The result of all this is a wide-ranging system of discrimination which covers all areas of life from the right to live in the country to housing subsidies, student aid, health care, employment, and building permits.

Israelis who admit the existence of discrimination in Israel often defend it on the grounds that it is not legally-instituted *apartheid* such as found in South Africa, because it is practiced by voluntary and non-governmental organizations. This is only partly valid. There are Israeli laws which require it, however, through the requirement of service in the army for eligibility. The Law of Return, of course, is most explicit about it. But even discrimination by "voluntary" organizations is legally sanctioned, because such organizations were given authority to render services by written agreements with the Israeli government. They are in effect subcontractors for the Israeli government and practice *apartheid* on its behalf.

Apartheid is repugnant because of what it is, not because of who practices it. The U.S. government not only deplores *apartheid* in South Africa, but it also penalizes American establishments which practice discrimination by forbidding federal grants to them. Shouldn't Israel be treated similarly, at least? Does the "special relationship" have no limit and no conscience? □



NAAA CRITICIZES U.S. AID TO ISRAEL

The National Association of Arab Americans sponsored a national radio advertising campaign critical of U.S. aid to Israel as unfair to American taxpayers.

"The Israeli economy is a basket case," NAAA Executive Director David Sadd said at a news conference in Washington. "To quote a report prepared by the American embassy in Israel, 'Economic developments in Israel during 1983 were characterized by continued deterioration in almost all areas.' This, after America has given away over \$25 billion to Israel since 1970.

"Now Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres is in Washington asking for billions more of our money to bail out Israel," Sadd said. "We don't think it's fair to Americans and we are mounting a media campaign to let the public know."

The campaign of 60-second commercials was timed to correspond with the visit of Premier Shimon Peres who came to Washington to meet President Reagan and discuss emergency aid for Israel. The ads ask, "Is it fair to Americans?," and compared aid to Israel with spending on American veterans' assistance and loans to small businessmen.

The ads were aired on five stations in Washington on Thursday and Friday, October 4 and 5. In New York, the ads were broadcast on three stations.

NAAA said it has encountered much difficulty in finding stations willing to accept the ad, even though stations admit the ad is factually correct and produced in good taste. They frequently refer to

(continued on page 11)

the ad as "too controversial." Of the nine stations contacted in Washington, five accepted the ad, and one station dropped the ad after running it only two days. In New York, 21 stations were contacted and only three accepted the ad. Originally, three top network affiliate stations in New York accepted, and three days later changed their decision before the ads were broadcast.

Following is the text of the ad:

IS IT FAIR TO AMERICANS?

WHILE OUR SMALL BUSINESSMEN WORK OVERTIME AND GO INTO DEBT TO COMPETE, NEXT YEAR WE WILL GIVE ISRAEL ALMOST TWICE AS MUCH AS WE WILL LOAN AMERICANS THROUGH THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION. OUR VETERANS HAVE MADE GREAT SACRIFICES FOR AMERICA, YET THE AMOUNT BUDGETED FOR THEIR EDUCATION, TRAINING AND REHABILITATION IS HALF OF WHAT ISRAEL WILL RECEIVE.

IS IT FAIR TO AMERICANS?

NOW ISRAEL'S PRIME MINISTER IS COMING TO WASHINGTON TO ASK FOR AN ADDITIONAL BILLION DOLLARS OF SPECIAL AID. ON TOP OF THE TWO BILLION, SIX HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS ISRAEL WILL ALREADY GET THIS YEAR. AND ON TOP OF THE TWENTY-FIVE BILLION DOLLARS IN AID SINCE 1970.

IF YOU DON'T THINK IT IS FAIR FOR ISRAEL TO GET MORE OF YOUR TAX DOLLARS, CALL YOUR CONGRESSMAN AND SENATORS. TELL THEM, IT'S NOT FAIR TO AMERICANS.

THIS MESSAGE BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ARAB AMERICANS. WE THINK IT'S ONLY FAIR FOR YOU TO KNOW. □

U.S.-ISRAELI MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) wants the U.S. to allow Israeli companies to bid for U.S. defense contracts. To sell this proposal to integrate the Israeli military-industrial complex to that of the United States, the Israeli lobby (AIPAC) has published a study entitled "U.S. Procurement of Israeli Defense Goods and Services" which argues that the U.S. could benefit by letting Israel get its hands on the substantial U.S. defense cookie jar.

The AIPAC study says that Israel's wars give its weapons designers advantages no one else enjoys, because Israeli scientists and engineers who make Israeli weapons have combat experience themselves. This combat experience makes them better makers of weapons.

One of the undeclared objectives of the AIPAC proposal is to involve the United States more deeply in the military conflicts in the Middle East. Its study advises the U.S. to take advantage of Israeli military maintenance and repair facilities in case its military forces are committed in the Middle East or the eastern Mediterranean.

The view being propagated by AIPAC in this study is a part of its current strategy to encourage growing political, economic, and military linkages between the U.S. and Israel in the hope of putting teeth into the concept of "strategic cooperation" between the two countries. AIPAC's priority at this stage is to give credence to the view that the U.S. needs Israel and benefits from its powers and capabilities. □

PRO-ISRAEL PACS

A recently-published report on the financial support given by pro-Israel Political Action Committees (PACs) to congressional candidates supportive of Israel reveals that 54 such groups exist, and that as of mid-1984 they spent or had cash ready to spend amounting to \$4.25 million. The report, by Edward Roeder, chairman of the Washington-based Sunshine News Service,

is based on the legally required reports made by the groups concerned to the Federal Election Commission in Washington.

The report shows that these pro-Israel groups give more campaign money to candidates who are members of congressional committees with jurisdiction over issues of interest to Israel, such as foreign policy, foreign aid, and military affairs. For example, pro-Israel PACs have already given more than \$576,000 to campaigns of Senate Foreign Relations Committee members, or to opponents of members who have not consistently supported Israel, like Senator Charles Percy. His opponent, Representative Paul Simon, received \$147,870 from pro-Israel PACs. Another senator targeted by the pro-Israel groups is Jesse Helms whose opponent, North Carolina governor James B. Hunt, received \$130,350.

The report says that pro-Israel PACs try to conceal their identity and interests by giving themselves names which carry no signs of their identification with Israel. The largest of these groups, for example, is called the National Political Action Committee (NATPAC). Others are known as Americans for Good Government, Citizens Organized Political Action Committee, Delaware Valley PAC, Desert Caucus, Florida Congressional Committee, Joint Action Committee for Political Affairs, Round Table PAC, San Franciscans for Good Government, St. Louisians for Better Government, and Washington Political Action Committee. A Texas group which had a slightly indicative name, Texans for a Sound Middle East Policy, changed its name last year to "TxPAC."

The report said that pro-Israel PACs usually refuse to answer inquiries about their interests and policy orientations. Their single-mindedness in supporting pro-Israeli candidates was indicated by a comment made by Senator Percy's campaign press secretary who was quoted by the report as saying: "It appears that some of these pro-Israel PACs feel that if you're only 99% with them, and not 100% with them, you should be voted out of office." □

BARBARA STREISAND DECLARES WAR ON HELMS

Barbara Streisand has joined the pack howling for the political head of Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC). In a widely-circulated 3-page letter, she said she was ending a long-standing "policy not to get involved in political campaigns." Why? She says Senator Helms is the enemy of practically all good causes—especially Israel. On an "issue that is as dear to me as I know it is to you—the security and survival of Israel—" she wrote, "Jesse Helms has by any measure the *worst anti-Israel record of any member of the U.S. Senate.*" [Emphasis in the original].

Streisand assures the recipients of her letter that "fortunately, there's a way to silence Jesse Helms." And that is to write a check to his opponent for the Senate seat, Governor Jim Hunt of North Carolina. □

REAGAN PLAN EXPIRED

The Israeli Hebrew-language daily, *Ma'ariv* said in its issue of 17 October that U.S. administration officials made it clear to Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres during his recent visit to Washington that they realize that the Reagan plan is dead. For this reason, the U.S. will not raise the issue after the presidential elections.

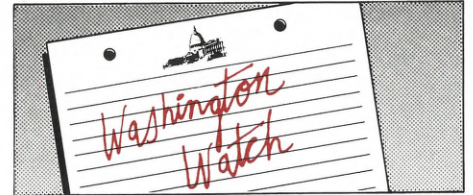
Spokesmen for the Israeli Foreign Ministry and the U.S. Department of State denied the *Ma'ariv* report, but the paper, in a follow-up story published five days later, quoted Israel's Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir saying to a Tel Aviv meeting of the Herut Party Executive that "U.S. President Ronald Reagan told me that, practically speaking, the plan named after him no longer exists."

The burial of the Reagan plan would remove one of the issues over which there is disagreement between the Labor and Likud wings of the governing coalition in Israel. When they formed their "national unity government" after the July Knesset elections, they agreed to pretend that there is no problem regarding the future of the occupied territories. □

ISRAEL REWARDED FOR ACCEPTING U.S. HANDOUT

The American Secretary of Defense, Caspar W. Weinberger, informed his Israeli counterpart Yitzhak Rabin that the U.S. intends to renew the "offset policy" agreement with Israel, which expires at the end of October. According to this agreement, the U.S. government agrees to buy \$15 worth of Israeli military goods for every \$100 Israel spends on U.S. military supplies. In 1985, Israel will receive \$1.4 billion in U.S. military aid, all of which will be given in the form of non-repayable grants. For graciously accepting this gift, Israel would be entitled to sell goods in the U.S. Reports from Israel, published in the *Jerusalem Post* and *Ma'ariv*, suggested that Israeli weapons sales to the United States could reach \$700 million to \$1 billion.

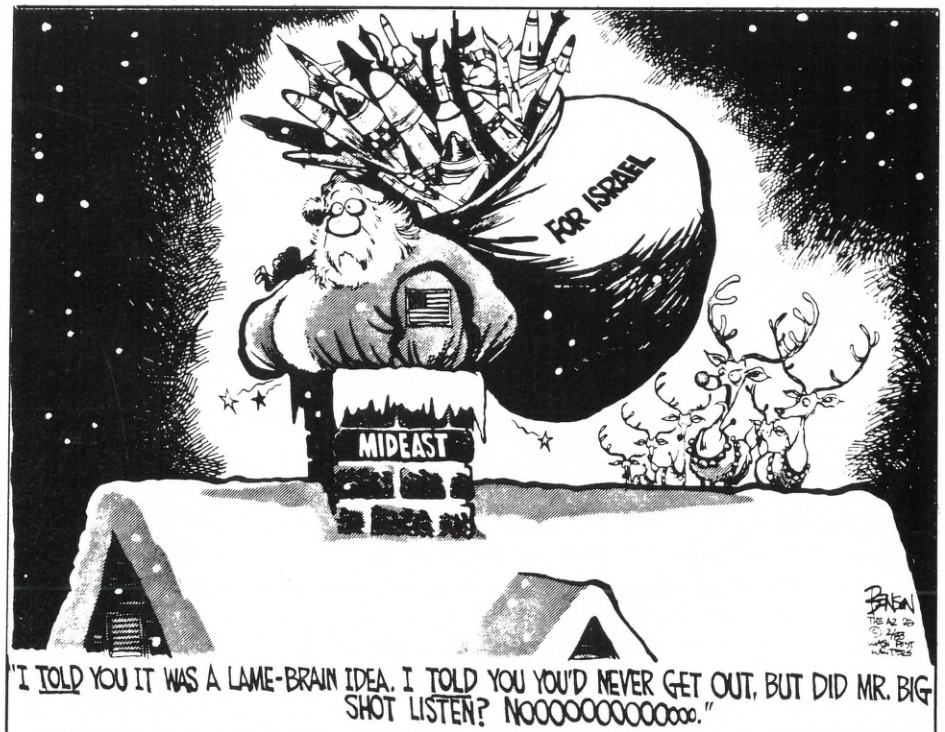
Secretary Weinberger's visit to Israel, in mid-October, produced another deal for Israel. Israel is to have access to American technology to develop and produce its "Lavi" jet fighter, which is considered a competitor to the U.S.-produced F-20. While the American F-20 received no federal subsidy, the Israeli model has \$550 million already earmarked for it by Congress. □



U.S. PERSHING TO ISRAEL?

A U.S. administration source said Israel wants Pershing II intermediate range missiles from the United States. The Pershing II has a range of 900 miles, and can be equipped with nuclear warheads, which Israel already has. So far, the U.S. has supplied Israel with the Lance missile, which also can carry nuclear warheads, but its range is limited to 55 miles.

The U.S. has so far refused to make the Pershing missile available to Israel on the grounds that it would destabilize the Middle East. If the U.S. now agrees to give it to Israel, all the Arab states would be subjected to an Israeli nuclear blackmail, and it would remove all remaining constraints on an open-ended nuclear arms race in the Middle East. □





NO DEBATE IN CANADA

In December 1982, a Canadian student organization called Canadians for Peace in the Middle East was denied recognition as a student club by the student council of the University of Western Ontario, because the club endorsed a pro-Palestinian policy. The group, which later changed its name to Canadians for Peace Now, charged that it was being penalized for its political views, and complained to the Ontario Human Rights Commission and the Canadian Civil Liberties Association.

The CCLA recently released its report on the case, in which it confirmed the charge of politically motivated behavior on the part of the student council. The report said that one of the recurring themes throughout the controversy focused on the pro-Palestinian orientation of the group. The report pointed out that intellectual, social and political diversity represents the very lifeblood of a university, and the refusal to recognize a student club because it holds pro-Palestinian views violates this principle.

A University of Western Ontario law professor, Robert Martin, said that the refusal to recognize the club reflects a "worrisome trend at Canadian universities to avoid controversial issues in the one setting where debates and inquiry should be taking place." Professor Martin, who teaches constitutional law, said that the experience of the pro-Palestinian club indicates "systematic refusal to permit debate" on an important world issue "simply because it is controversial and may upset some people." □

JAPANESE SOLIDARITY

Several Japanese societies demonstrated their solidarity with the people of Palestine by co-sponsoring an evening in Tokyo to commemorate the massacre of Sabra and Shatila. The event included a large exhibit of physical evidence of the massacre, including photographs and personal possessions found by Japanese journalists who were in Beirut at the time. The exhibit included school notebooks and identity cards, and school bags belonging to murdered children.

Among the participating groups were the Congress of Asian Youth, the Committee of Solidarity with Palestine, the International Studies Group of the University of Tokyo, and the Permanent Committee of Solidarity with the Peoples of Latin America.

The PLO representative in Japan addressed the meeting. The gathering issued a statement which, among other things, asked the Japanese government to recognize the PLO office in Tokyo as a Palestinian embassy, and to suspend all aid to Israel. □

PALESTINE IN UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY XXXIX SESSION

The agenda of the current 39th regular session of the U.N. General Assembly includes several items pertaining to the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict. Among the items which deal more directly and explicitly with these issues are the following:

Item 24. Armed Israeli aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installations and its grave consequences for the established international system concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and international peace and security.

Item 33. The question of Palestine, including the report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

Item 36. The situation in the Middle East: Reports of the Secretary-General.

Item 48. Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East.

Item 53. Israeli nuclear armament: Report of the Secretary-General.

Item 71. Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories.

Item 75. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

Item 77. Israel's decision to build a canal linking the Mediterranean Sea to the Dead Sea.

In addition, it is expected that Israeli repression of Palestinians living under its occupation will come up under other general items such as the "Implementation of the Program of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (**Item 86**); and "Importance of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination and of the speedy granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples" (**Item 87**). □

TO LEDICE WITH COMPASSION

On the second anniversary of the massacre of Sabra and Shatila, the PLO representative in Prague placed a wreath of flowers on the memorial to the victims of Ledice, the Czech town which was decimated by the Nazis.

The Palestinian representative at the ceremonies said that regardless of the distance in space and time, killers have the same identity. "Hitler's marks here in Ledice are the same as the Zionist mark on Sabra and Shatila. It is one of the ironies of history that the Zionists became Hitler's heirs." He added: "History teaches that oppressors come and go, but the people remain forever." □

FRANCOISE DIED FOR PALESTINE

At dawn, on 23 September 1984, a French lady gave her life for Palestine. Francoise Castimane joined a group of Palestinian commandoes in an attack on an Israeli position in occupied Lebanon. The rubber boat carried them to the vicinity of occupied Saida. Three members of the commando group died in the battle. They included two Palestinian fighters and Francoise.

Francoise left a message to her little son, Pierre, in which she said: "I will not close my conscience to the cries of the tortured, or to the pains of the prisoners. . . I love you, and I love liberty." The authenticity of her love of liberty impelled her to fight, and eventually to die, for the liberty of others, the Palestinian people.

Francoise, according to her will, was buried in Lebanon, with the victims of Sabra and Shatila. □

Arafat Consoles Francoise Family



VATICAN FIRM ON PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

News from Rome indicates some pressure on the Holy See to recognize Israel and to exchange diplomatic relations with it. No such move is expected, however, since Israel's policy conflicts with important elements of Vatican policy on the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Vatican is committed to a just solution to the Palestine question, which would include Palestinian self-determination, and to the internationalization of Jerusalem. Israel opposes both of these elements of Vatican policy.

To demonstrate his sympathy with the Palestinian people and their just demand for a homeland, Pope John Paul II received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasser Arafat in 1982, just after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

The Israeli daily, *Davar*, reported on 21 October that President Reagan is playing a role in this effort to bring about a change in Vatican policy. It quoted "knowledgeable sources" as saying that he wants "to soften the Vatican's attitude toward Israel" in order "to impinge on traditional Jewish support for the Democratic Party." □

The PLO office in La Paz, the Bolivian capital, is sponsoring an art contest to depict Palestinian struggle for self-determination. The contest is held to commemorate November 29, the Day of International Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

Graphic artists were invited to submit paintings and posters portraying various aspects of Palestinian art and Palestinian struggle for independence. □

NOVEMBER 29: PALESTINE DAY

November 29 of every year was designated by a United Nations General Assembly resolution in 1977 as the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. The same resolution decided the establishment of a United Nations Special Unit [later enlarged to Division] on Palestine to undertake "the greatest possible dissemination of information on the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people." □

ISRAEL IS FINANCIAL RISK

Israel has joined the rank of bankrupt states by defaulting on scheduled payments on its enormous debt to the United States. During Prime Minister Shimon Peres' recent visit to the U.S., a 6-month moratorium on Israel's debt was granted by the Reagan administration to conceal Israel's insolvency. About \$1 billion of Israel's \$22 billion foreign debts (of which \$9 billion are owed to the U.S.), is due for repayment.

Israel's radio reported that senior economic sources in Israel fear that the 6-month moratorium will be seen by the world's financial community as a sign that Israel is a financial risk, which would make it difficult for Israel to borrow from the world's financial market. Israeli officials are hoping that U.S. generosity would convince the world's bankers that Israel is not such a poor risk, because it has a rich uncle called Uncle Sam.

The U.S. has already increased its assistance to Israel (\$2.6 billion for 1985, and more being discussed). For the first time in the history of U.S. subsidy to Israel, *all* U.S. aid is being given as non-repayable grants, and a free trade agreement is being negotiated which would permit the entry of Israeli goods into the U.S. market freely and without tariffs.

In other economic developments, the latest Israeli figures show continuing bad news for Israel's balance of payments, and even worse

news on Israel's legendary inflation problem. In September, the consumer price index in Israel set new records. It rose by 21.4 percent, the largest monthly rise in the rate of inflation since Israel became a state. This rise brings to 450 percent the rate of inflation during the past 12 months. It is predicted that Israel will have a staggering 1000 percent inflation before too long. □

ISRAEL'S VIETNAM

The Israeli media, on 22 October, widely covered the news of the 600th Israeli fatality in Lebanon. Soldier Allon Tsur, 30, died from wounds he received along with two other Israeli soldiers when their patrol was attacked by Lebanese resistance forces near Zaharani River on 20 October.

Tsur's funeral turned into a protest demonstration against continued Israeli occupation of south Lebanon. *Ha'aretz* quoted participants in the funeral saying that the situation has become intolerable, and that the Israeli forces must be pulled out of Lebanon immediately.

One man, who had lost a son in Lebanon, spoke by the open grave saying: "Lebanon has been devouring our sons. We want to know why we still sit there. On this occasion we want to remind Peres and Rabin that they promised us to bring our sons back. And Sharon who got us into that swamp has the audacity to tell us with whom

IDF LOSES ARSENAL

The Israeli army has one more problem to deal with: its own soldiers who are stealing it blind. According to Chaim Eraz, Israeli quartermaster general, Israeli soldiers have stolen \$250 million worth of military equipment from the army during the past three years. The war in Lebanon alone, he said, cost \$140 million in stolen equipment.

This problem has become so severe that Israel has offered soldiers involved in such theft an opportunity to return stolen weapons during the month of October with no questions asked. The enormous size of the theft is indicated by a *Jerusalem Post* report, on October 8, that 5,000 hand grenades have already been returned as a part of this deal.

It is possible that much of the stolen weapons end up with Jewish terrorists in West Bank/Gaza settlements. Interrogation of some terrorists has already uncovered that the Israeli army is the source of their weapons. Moreover, the types of stolen weapons include some not normally used by common criminals, such as mine throwers (45 missing), and bazookas (several). □

we should negotiate. He is not satisfied with the U.N. forces, but he is satisfied that we pay with our dead who fall every day." □



**Palestine
Research
and
Educational
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